

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/EE0				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/OEA	X			
16	C/PAD/OEA				
17	SA/IA				
18	AQ/DCI				
19	C/IPD/OIS				
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks:

Direct acknowledgment please (in
absence of DCI etc., etc.)

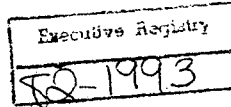
Executive Secretary

16 August 1982

Date

The New York Times

1000 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20036
(202) 862-0330



Memo from

William Safire

Bill Casey —

An idea?

R

P310

August 7, 1982

25X1

Mr. William Safire
c/o Editor, New York Times
229 West 43d St
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Safire

As an occasional reader of your occasional column, I am writing to you with a complaint. There have been numerous rumors for years that there is a large prison system in the Soviet Union. The U.S. ambassador to the Madrid meeting on the Helsinki agreements said there are 1.7 million prisoners in the USSR. That is more than twice the size one could justify for a country of 250 million. Senator O. Hatch (April 5, 1982, Wall Street Journal) put the number of prisoners at 3 million, more than 4 times what it should be. People who have been in the Gulag generally give larger estimates than either the senator or the ambassador. Of course, whenever such estimates are given they are not accompanied by any evidence so don't have much effect.

If it were definitely established that the USSR runs a large system of forced labor then maybe they would have to close down the camps. Maybe Indira Ghandi would find it difficult to make loftily righteous pro-Soviet statements. Maybe Pol Pot would have had a tougher time recruiting his thugs. Maybe a lot of things.

This brings me to my complaint. Why doesn't anyone in the press ask the CIA to release satellite photographs of the prisons so that a proper census of them can be taken? The technology that goes into a satellite camera good enough to enable a photo-interpreter to count the number of men standing in a row from a photograph taken from 100 miles up is more than ten years old. The CIA's reflex argument that they have to keep everything secret only makes sense to those who believe a ten year old camera is still secret and that keeping that secret is worth more to us than keeping the prisons secret is to the soviets.

Running concentration camps is the sort of thing people can only do in the dark. I thought it was the job of the press to turn on the lights. When it comes to the Gulag you're not turning on any lights even though you are sitting right next to the switch.

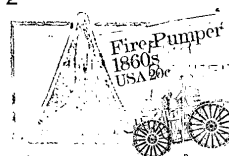
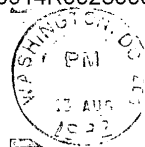
Sincerely yours

STAT

Safire
The New York Times

WASHINGTON BUREAU
1000 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

Approved For Release 2007/03/27 : CIA-RDP83M00914R002800050045-2



WILLIAM J. CASEY
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505



Approved For Release 2007/03/27 : CIA-RDP83M00914R002800050045-2